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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION BRANCH
821 Market Street, Room 656
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending May 7, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 4--- In the vegetable department Artichokes, Asparagus, Celery, Cabbage, Rhubarb, Spinach, and Rutabagas are labeled as the week's "Best Buys."

On the "Fair Buy" counter consumers will find Broccoli, Cauliflower, and Soft Squashes.

Onions are still selling high, but prices are dropping some as supplies become heavier -- especially from Texas.

Carrots, Snap Beans, Peppers and Tomatoes all remain high priced.

On Potatoes, prices are slightly higher on the old ones, while supplies of New Potatoes are becoming heavier and prices are dropping slightly.

There's practically no change in the fruit picture. Watsonville Newtown Apples can still be considered a "Best Buy", even though they are nearing the end of their season. Also in the "Best Buy" class are Small Oranges.

Pears and Grapefruit remain "Fair Buys."

Supplies of strawberries are gradually becoming heavier and prices are dropping slightly.

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Bay Area consumers doubtless will be paying more for Meat this week, because prices have made gains in the San Francisco wholesale market. With the improvement in pastures in most Pacific Coast states, Cattle and Lambs are making excellent daily gains, with the result that fewer numbers are moving to market. This in itself is a stimulus to prices. Also, there's a stronger consumer demand. Prices have gone up $2.00 per hundredweight on steer, heifer, and cow Beef, as well as on Spring Lamb and Ewe Mutton. Smoked Skinned Hams and Bacon are selling about $1.00 higher. Lard packed in one-pound cartons has dropped about $1.00 per hundredweight. More plentiful supplies of Fresh Veal and Calf are selling at unchanged prices. Fresh Pork cuts have continued in fairly liberal volume and unchanged in price, although demand has been rather broad.

Butter prices are unchanged from last week in the San Francisco wholesale market. Supplies of Fresh Butter have continued to increase as the result of the steady upturn in spring production. Also, local prices are attractive to Central Western creameries, so that larger shipments are expected from that source. Quotations are: Grade A(92 Score) 83 cents per pound; Grade B(90 Score) 82 cents.

Grade "A" Small Eggs, which have been in little demand, are selling 1-cent per dozen lower this week at 44-45½ cents. All other grades and sizes are unchanged in price from last week, with Grade "A" Large at 54-54½ cents per dozen, Mediums at 50-51½ cents, and Grade "B" Large at 51-51½ cents. Surplus receipts of Large Eggs are continuing to move into storage in liberal amounts.

San Francisco wholesale prices have dropped on larger supplies of all Young Poultry since last week. On both live and dressed weights, Broilers are 2 cents per pound lower; Colored Fryers are 3 cents lower; and Colored Roasters are 5 cents per pound lower. Supplies of Fowl are lighter, but prices remain unchanged. Dressed Turkey Hens are selling 1 to 2 cents per pound higher, while Turkey Toms are down 1-cent.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending May 14, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 11 --- Small Oranges are the week's "Best Buy" in fruit.

Lighter supplies and higher prices have put Apples in the "Fair Buy" class along with Grapefruit.

Strawberries are gradually becoming more plentiful, and prices are coming down.

The first Cherries have arrived in the market from the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, but prices are high. Imperial Valley Cantaloups are also coming to market at a high price.

Artichokes (slightly higher), Cabbage, Cauliflower, and Spinach are the "Best Buys" in vegetables.

Rated as "Fairly Good Buys" are Asparagus, Celery, Rhubarb, and New Bliss Triumph (red) Potatoes.

Broccoli, Green Peas, and Dry Onions (selling slightly lower) are "Fair Buys" this week.

Soft Squashes are high and have a wide range of quality. Green Beans, Carrots, Peppers (slightly lower), and Tomatoes all remain high priced.

There's Green Corn in the market, but it's high priced.

All New Potatoes are selling at somewhat lower prices, while Old Potatoes remain unchanged.

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At the Meat counter, Bay Area consumers probably will find Steer and Heifer Beef selling higher in line with the $2.00 climb made in the San Francisco wholesale market price. Ewe Mutton also has made a gain of $1.00 since last week. Cow Beef, Veal, Calf, and Pork all remain unchanged in price. Generally, the supplies of Commercial and Good Steer and Heifer Beef have about equalled demand this past week. There have been more liberal supplies of Veal, while Calf carcasses have made up a rather small percent of the daily supply. In the case of Lamb, Good and Choice grades have made up most of the liberal supplies, with some carry-over. A larger supply of Ewe Mutton has been in broad demand, while liberal supplies of Fresh Pork have been in fairly broad demand.

The wholesale price of Grade A(92 Score) Butter has jumped 4 cents since last week to a quotation of 87 cents per pound. Higher prices in Eastern markets and the threatened railroad strike have been instrumental in the price hike. Grade B(90 Score) remains at 82 cents. Demand has been fairly good for the heavier supplies.

Grade "A" Small Eggs in slow demand have dropped another cent on the wholesale market. All other grades and sizes are unchanged from last week. Quotations are: Grade "A" Large 54-54½ cents per dozen, Mediums 50-51½ cents, Smalls 43-44½ cents, and Grade "B" Large 51-51½ cents. There's practically no change in supplies -- all grades and sizes are plentiful.

In the San Francisco wholesale Poultry Market, prices have continued to drop. Supplies of all Young Poultry and Colored Fowl are rather liberal. On both live and dressed weights, Broilers and Small Fryers are quoted 1-cent per pound lower; Large Fryers are 3 cents lower; Roasters are down 2 cents; all sizes of Leghorn Fowl are down 1-cent; and Colored Fowl is selling 2 cents per pound lower. Dressed Young Tom Turkeys have gained 1-cent per pound. All other classes are unchanged. Demand is still fairly good.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending May 21, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 18--- Again this week, Artichokes, Cabbage, Cauliflower, and Spinach are the "Best Buys" in vegetables.

Classed as "Fairly Good Buys" are Asparagus (about unchanged in price), Broccoli, Rhubarb, and Celery.

New Potatoes have come down in price enough to rate a "Fair Buy" tag, along with Dry Onions, Green Peas, Soft Squashes and Tomatoes (both considerably lower priced).

In the high-priced group are Carrots, Green Corn, Cucumbers, Snap Beans, and Peppers.

There are no outstanding buys in fruit this week. Northwestern Apples can still be considered a "Fair Buy," as are Small Oranges, Grapefruit, and Strawberries in heavier supply and lower priced.

Cherries are coming in, but are commanding a high price.

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Prices on Beef may be higher in retail meat markets this week to reflect the $1.00 to $2.00 price hike on cow carcasses in the San Francisco wholesale market, and the $1.00 to $3.00 higher prices on some wholesale cuts of steer and heifer beef. Wholesale prices have held unchanged on all other classes of meat since last week. Trading has been somewhat cautious, with much of the buying done on a day-to-day basis. Good and Choice Calf Carcasses, Good to Choice Small Spring Lambs, and Cow Beef have been in light supply, but supplies of Veal have been more plentiful, and there have been liberal supplies of Lamb, Mutton, and Pork. Most of the Beef this past week has been of Commercial and Good Steer and Heifer quality. Veal has been running largely Utility and Commercial in grade.

Under the influence of supplies larger than the demand, and a price break in Eastern markets, wholesale Butter prices in the San Francisco market have dropped 6 to 7 cents. Grade A(92 Score) is down 7 cents at 80 cents per pound, and Grade B(90 Score) is 6 cents per pound lower at 76 cents.

The only change on Eggs is a 2-cent drop on Grade "B" Large Eggs quoted at 49-49½ cents per dozen. All Grade "A" eggs are unchanged from last week at 54-54½ cents on Grade "A" Large, 50-51½ cents on Mediums, and 43-44½ cents on Smalls. Production has shown a downward trend for two consecutive weeks but is still 10 percent above last year.

Wholesale Poultry prices have continued their downward trend of last week. Broilers, Fryers, Roasters, and Colored Fowl are all down 1-cent per pound on both live and dressed weights. Dressed Young Tom Turkeys continued last week's pattern, too, by gaining another cent per pound. Supplies of all classes of poultry are plentiful.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending May 28, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 25--- Most all fruits and vegetables remain expensive this week but, relatively speaking, the week's "Best Buys" among vegetables include artichokes, asparagus, celery and rhubarb.

Classed as "Fairly Good Buys" are cabbage and cauliflower, both of which slipped out of last week's "Best Buy" classification. Other "Fair Buys" are dry onions, lettuce, peas, new potatoes, Zucchini squash and tomatoes.

Frankly in the High Price Group are carrots, although they are a little lower than they were last week. Aligned with carrots in the costly category are beans, peppers, eggplant and cucumbers.

There are no outstanding buys in the fruit division this week. The banana supply is double that of last year, but the prices are just as high and are sticking there. Apple prices are edging upward as that fruit pulls slowly out of the "plentiful" division. Some Mission and Brunswick figs from Coachella Valley are in the market, but they're expensive, as are cantaloups and cherries. Grapefruit and small oranges are fair buys this week, and strawberries are fairly good buys during the middle of each week but advance in price toward week-ends under strong consumer demand.

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There has been less demand for Fresh Meats this past week. Some weakening in prices has occurred. And in some divisions supplies have been carried over. On Beef, cooler supplies have failed to clear -- especially very liberal supplies of Cow Beef of mostly Cutter to Commercial grades. As a result, prices have ranged $2.00 to $3.00 lower on cow carcasses. There has been a very uneven market on Beef Cuts, but for the most part, prices have gone up on almost all cuts. Commercial and Good grades of Fresh Veal and Calf have been more plentiful at unchanged prices. Prices have dropped $2.00 per hundredweight on liberal supplies of Spring Lamb, and there have been indications of a rather heavy carry-over, while Ewe Mutton has been in fairly broad demand. Offerings of all Pork Cuts have been ample as the result of a good hog slaughter. Prices have remained unchanged on all fresh cuts of pork, but Hams and Bacon have hardly been able to hold their own on prices.

Wholesale butter prices in the San Francisco market were up 2 to 4 cents over the previous week. Grade "A" (92 Score) butter was offered at 84 cents per pound, but there were few buyers. Grade "B" (90 Score) butter was sold at 78 cents per pound. Butter production in the West was 2 percent larger than the week before, but 21 percent lower than the five-year 1942-46 average.

There were no changes in wholesale egg prices during the week, and selling prices remained at 54 to 54-1/2 cents per dozen for large Grade "A"; 50 to 51-1/2 cents per dozen for medium Grade "A"; and 43 to 44-1/2 cents per dozen for Grade "A" smalls. Large Grade "B" eggs also remained unchanged in price at 49 to 49-1/2 cents per dozen.

Wholesale poultry prices were mostly up from those of a week earlier, except for leghorn fowl which was down about 1 cent at 31 cents per pound. Colored Roasters advanced 4 cents to 46 to 47 cents. Colored fryers, colored fowl, and young dressed Tom turkeys all went up about 1 cent with fryers at 42 to 43 cents, fowl at 37 to 38 cents, and young Tom turkeys at 59 to 60 cents per pound. Broilers held unchanged from last week's 37 to 38 cents per pound alive, and 50 to 51 cents per pound dressedweight.

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